



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

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August 3, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.   
Acting Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20, I provided you with a status report indicating that, following State budget adoption, we assumed that the State would be ready to initiate negotiations over the FY 06/07 contract for these services. Public Health staff initiated this process by contacting the State by e-mail with specific questions.

On August 1, we received an e-mail response, which included the following information:

- The amount of increased funding and work expected to be accomplished depends on the impact of current salary negotiations.
- The State is in the process of apportioning workload to each of its district offices and to Los Angeles County (as one of its district offices).
- The State is greatly concerned about backlogs in inspections, but plans for reducing them by the State's hiring new staff are mitigated by the lag time caused by extensive training requirements; the State intends to meet soon with our HFID managers to discuss approaches to reducing the local backlog.

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- Of critical importance is HFID's ability to hire nurses; discussion on possible additional funds being made available to Los Angeles County in a contract amendment for State Fiscal Year 2005-06 may depend on HFID's progress in filling nursing vacancies.

**Filling Nurse Vacancies**

Since my last status report, HFID has hired three nurses, who are now enrolled in the State's training academy. Three more nurses will be hired, as soon as they are cleared by Human Resources, which leaves HFID with 7 vacant nursing positions, down from the 13 vacancies we noted in June. The State continues to run an ad in "Nurse Weekly," and HFID has had more than fifty inquiries in response.

I will provide you with a further update by August 31, 2006. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:lm  
604:016

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors